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Frank W. Palmer, of Illinois, Chosen for Public Printer.

TWO CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS ALSO NAMED.

Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, and Hugh S. Thompson, of South Carolina, the Successful Gentlemen-Blographical Sketches of the Trio-Other News of National Interest.

WASHINGTON, May 9.-The president Tuesday evening appointed Frank W. Palmer, of Illinois, to be public printer. Mr. Palmer was born in Manchester, Dearborn county, Ind., on October 11, 1827, and at the age of 15 was apprenticed to learn the printing trade. He first worked as a journeyman in New York city, and then removed to Jamestown, N. Y., where for ten years he was the publisher and editor of The Jamestown Journal. He was a member of the New York assembly in 1853 and 1854.

In 1855 he removed to Iowa and became editor and part owner of The Dubuque Times. In 1860 he was elected state printer, holding the office eight years. While at Des Moines as state printer he secured control of The State Register, the paper now owned by First Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson. In 1868 he was elected a representative from Iowa to the Forty-first congress, and was re-elected to the Forty-second congress. After leaving congress Mr. Palmer cought an interest in The Chicago Inter Ocean, which had been started about a year or two previously, and he at once assumed an elitorial relation with that paper.

He remained with The Inter Ocean until he was appointed postmaster of Chicago by President Hayes, which position he filled during the administrations of Garfield and Arthur, President Cleveland appointing his successor on the expiration of his term of office. Since relinquishing the postmastership he has been engaged in editorial work on various papers, among them The Chicago Herald. Mr. Palmer was not a candidate for the place, and the only letters on file at the White House in connection with his appointment are commendations sent in voluntarily since his name was publicly men-tioned. He is a practical printer, and is also a book-binder.

Civil Service Commissioners. The president also appointed Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, and Hugh S. Thompson, of South Carolina, to be civil service commissioners.

Mr. Roosevelt is a well-known member of the Roosevelt family of New York, and has taken an active part in the politics of that state. He was one of the delegates at large to the Republican covention at Chicago in



THEODORE BOOSEVELT.

1884, and was the Republican candidate for mayor of New York City at the election preceding the last mayoralty contest, running against Abram S. Hewitt and Heury

He has been a decided civil service reformer all his life, and while in the state senate of New York secured the passage of what is known as the Roosevelt reform bills. He is a man of literary tastes, and has written a number of magazine articles descriptive of life upon the large ranch which he owns in Montana. He is about 30 years of age, and is a quick, nervous and energetic worker. He is not now in Washington, but was here in consultation with the president before he accepted the appoint

Mr. Thompson is the well known assistant secretary of the treasury from South Caro-



lina, appointed by President Cleveland. He was born in Charleston, S. C. and is about 50 years of age. He was educated at the University of South Carolina, and after he was graduated therefrom, studied and practiced law for some time in Columbia, the capital of the state

HUGH S. THOMPSON. He was elected govnor of the state, which office he resigned to accept the assistant secretaryship of the

treasury. He was one of the most popular of the appointees of the late administration, and President Cleveland in February last sent in his nomination to the senate for the office to which he was this evening appointed, but it was not confirmed,

Earning Their Wages.

WASHINGTON, May 9. - As Secretary Rusk sat at his desk Monday afternoon, his gaze fell upon the workmen engaged in mowing the first crop of grass on the grounds of the agricultural department. Something in their movements did not satisfy his eye, and turning to Chief Clerk Rockwood, he said: "I'd like to go out there and give those fellows

"You'd better turn that over to me," responded Maj. Rockwood. "I can mow all around you.

"Not much," replied the secretary, the boys says 'you ain't built that way.' " Tuesday morning as they rode up the

avenue to the department building the sight of the mowers alongside brought to mind Monday's banter, and without a word the secretary and chief clerk leaped from the carriage to the lawn, and, each grabbing a scythe from the astonished laborers, began to swing them in the most approved style. The tall form of the secretary movel rapidly along a wide swath amid the plaudits of an admiring crowd attracted by the unusual spectacle, while Maj. Rockwood more modes ly n si his own in the contest; but he did not make good his boast of mowing all demonstrated his staying qualities by going to the department after finishing his stint and cutting off a few heads with the official guillotine, while the major failed to show up at his desk at all during the day. It was explained that he had gone to Mount Vernon.

"The Line of Duty." WASHINGTON, May 9 .- Assistant Secre tary Bussey has rendered an opinion of great importance, broadening former constructions in "the line of duty"cases. In this case, Mary E. McNeil, applied for a pension as the widow of Alexander McNail, who, while engaged in a wrestling contest with a comrade in camp, received injuries which resulted in his death. The pension office rejected the claim, on the ground that McNeil was not in the line of duty at the time he sustained his injuries, but Mr. Bussey holds that he was, and lays down the broad principle that soldiers while at camp, while not disobeying orders or acting in violations, are always in the line of duty.

Railroad Building in Mexico.

Washington, May 9 .- Secretary Blaine has received a further dispatch from the United States minister at the City of Mexico, dated April 23 last, in which he states that the work of construction on the Sonora, Sinaloa and Chihuahua railway was inaugurated on the 16th of that month in the presence of the president of the railway company, engineers, contractors, workmen the general commanding the Mexican Federal forces on the coast, the Federal judge, the prefect of the district and many others. The point selected for the commencement of the work is about six miles from Guaymas on the Sonora railroad, near Batamotal Station.

An Ohio Crank.

WASHINGTON, May 9 .- An Ohio crank stirred up the department of justice Tuesday. His name is John Smart and he hails from Bellaire. He thinks he has power over the spirits of all soldiers killed in the war, but he cannot exercise his power until sworn into office by Chief Justice Fuller.

THE CITY OF PARIS"

Breaks the Record-Her Time Five Days,

Twenty-Three Hours and Seven Minutes. NEW YORK, May 9 .-- The Inman line steamer City of Paris, has broken the record. Her time from Queenstown to New York is computed to be 5 days, 23 hours, 7 minutes. Her fastest daily record was on May 7. when her log showed 511 miles. The Canarder Etruria's best time is 6 days, 1 hour, 55

NEW FIREARM INVENTION.

The Latest Is a Cartridge That Explodes and Then Disappears,

Paris, May 9 .- The improvement of firearms still goes on. Only God knows when and where the ingenuity of man will find a limit to its invention of instruments for the destruction of human life.

There are many young men who can remember when the sportsman used to carry his shot-pouch on one side and his powderhorn on the other. The soldier was no better equipped. At every charge it was necessary to load with powder and ball and cap-no easy matter with an enemy advancing at the double quick.

It was considered a great improvement when the powder was prepared for use in a paper bag, so that the powder-horn could be dispensed with, and the soldier only had to bite off the end of the bag. After a while powder and ball were packed together, and when the fulmination cap was made part of the cartridge, it seemed as if, in this matter, perfection had been gained.

But not at all. The shell of the cartridge is still a nuisance, and a new shell has been invented. It is made of an organic substance so light as greatly to reduce the weight of the soldier's cartridge-no slight advantage on a long march. It is as thin as a piece of paper, and yet it is as firm as copper; and, best of all, it is so inflammable that when the gun is discharged not a vestige of the cartridge remains even in the

form of dirt in the barrel of the weapon. The new arms are still further improved by the adoption of a new material for the ball. Lead is heavy, but its penetrating power is comparatively small. The new cartridge is of a lighter and more penetrating material, which will pierce solid timbers to a distance of one foot, and will pass through a plate of iron two inches thick. The French government is taking great pains to keep the secret of all these military advantages in the make of its small arms; but it is very doubtful whether the Prussians have not already bought the precious secret for a very small sum.

BOLD BANK ROBBERS.

Three of Them Enter a Bank in Broad Daylight and Secure \$4,500.

St. Joseph, Mo., May 9 .- Frazer & Mc-Domald's bank at Forest City, twenty miles north of here, was entered by three masked men Tuesday afternoon and robbed of \$4,- heaviest and steadiest winds ever known in 500. The robbers wore long overcoats, closely buttoned, and slouch hats: They walked into the front door of the building, where they met the president, O. E. Webber, talking to a farmer. Both were commanded to keep quiet, and were covered by revolvers. The third thief covered the cashier, and producing a sack, forced the cashier to open the safe and pour the contents into it. The robbers then backed out of the door

Fifteen men on horseback immediately armed themselves and started in pursuit, About three miles out of town, in the brush along the river, they caught sight of the robbers and opened fire. It was returned by the robbers, but no one was hurt, and in the chase that followed the robbers escaped.

Down on Stafford County.

A Funnel-Shaped Cloud Swoops

ITS PATH MARKED WITH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

The Awful Ending of a Wind Storm of Several Days' Duration-Partial List of the Casualties-Dakota Reports Shower of Frogs-Heavy Winds Cause a Wreck on the St. Paul Road.

HUTCHINSON, Kan., May 9.-The wind storm which has been raging over Kansas for several days past, culminated in a destructive cyclone in the eastern part of S afford county Monday night. The district visited was but sparsely settled. Had it been otherwise the loss of life and property would have been something terrible. As it is there is scarcely a vestige of farm improvement remaining. Houses and barns were demolished, trees torn up by the roots, and in many places growing crops literally blown out of the ground. Last Saturday the wind began blowing a gale from the south. This continued to increase in velocity throughout Sunday and Sunday night, and by Monday it had become a hurricane.

The air was filled with dust and sand which at times would obscure the sun. Late in the afternoon on Monday the sky became thick with black clouds, and the desp-toned thunder and frightful flashes of lightning indicated the appearance of some kind of a storm of unusual severity. At times the wind would lull as if to gain strength and then break forth with renewed fury. It was after one of these momentary cessations that the funnel-shaped cloud came dipping its remorseless tail to the earth, and obliter ating whatever obstructions lay in its pathway. On it came drowning in its roar the peals of thunder, and blinding by its dark ness the forked flashes of the lightning.

Men and women who witnessed the oncoming tornado were paralyzed by its awful terrors, while horses and cattle piteously neighed and lowed as they seemed to fully realize their impending doom. This was in the gathering shades of night, but the moon shone through the rifts in the clouds and added a wierd scene to the approach of the cyclone.

The path of the storm lay through Stafford county, extending from the southwest to the northeast, slightly east of the center of the county.

The first building struck was the farm house of William Slade, six miles south of the town of Stafford. The house was swept away and hardly a splinter of it left. The family were considerably bruised, but none have died.

The next building to succumb was the home of Al. Guinup. Both the house and barn are gone.

Mrs. A. Potter, a widow, had her house and stable blown away, but the family escaped uninjured.

"The next house in the pathway of the cyiam Biue. The house was torn to pieces, and suffered severe spinal shocks. Mrs. Lindsay so injured that she can scarcely recover.

George Davis' house was demolished, and his little girl fatally injured.

S. S. Crawford's residence was blown away, and his son William was killed out-

J. B. C. Cook's large cattle she is were destroyed, as were J. W. Burn's. Both lose J. Love's house is a thing of the past, and

his wife was blown fifty feet north of the house into a wagon, to which she clung. It carried her 100 yards further. The spokes in the wheels were either blown out or knocked out by flying timbers. When found Mrs. Love was clinging to the tongue of the wagon. She is so injured that the physicians say there is no hope of recovery. The storm seemed to have gained more

force when it reached John Bartletts 'house, which is south and east of Stafford. His house was carried away. His wife was blown 100 yards, and a toy rake blew on her breaking her shoulder blade and her nose, and putting out one eye and injuring her internally. His oldest boy was thrown thirty feet and landed on his head. The three youngest children were thrown 100 feet into a pile of corn stalks and were severely bruised.

The casualties so far as known are: William Crawford, killed outright; neck broken.

William Bolt, fatally injured. Olive Beard, burt so that he cannot re-Jason Beard, internally injured; will die.

A. F. Guinup, internally injured. Mrs. Guinup and babe; the mother internally injured, and the babe's thigh broken and otherwise injured. Mrs. Lindsay seriousuly hurt. A little girl

of George Dives fatally injured. S. S. Crawford, fatally injured. Mrs. J. Love, seriously injured. Peter Scarlet, leg broken. Mrs. John Bartlett, shoulder

William McVey, internally injured; can-Joseph Ferris, injured about the head. He will die.

broken and other injuries; will die.

Sioux Falls, Dak., May 9 -One of the this section prevailed Monday and Monday night, culminating in rain about midnight The wind blew a box-car from the side track onto the main track of the Chicago, Milwankee and St. Paul road at Dell Rapid. A freight train running at full speed struck the car and the entire train and locomotive were wrecked. Fred. Smith, a brakeman, was instantly killed. Several others, including passengers, escaped with bruises,

Three Babies Burned to Death. HUNTINGBURG, Ind., May 9. - Mrs. C. Wits man, of Hill Hall, left her three little cihildren alone a few minutes Tuesday. The house caught fire and burned to the ground, The two youngest children were cremated and the oldest fearfully burned. The mother has gone insane.

PLANTATIONS IN SAMOA.

What is Raised-Where the Germans Obtain their Labor.

NEW YORK, May 9 .- Mr. Sewell, the American consul general at Apia, says that the German plantations in Samoa comprise the greater part of the cultivated land on the north side of the island of Upolu. The total area of these plantations is 9,260 acres; they have been laid out with great care, and in beauty of scenery and rich fertility the views among them can not be surpassed.

They are capable of producing anything that will grow in the tropics. They are mainly planted with cocoanuts, for the production of copra, the dried kernel of the nut. The annual production of this is between 500 and 600 tons. After clearing cotton is planted, and this is grown for three years; then coccounts are planted and grass is sown, and until the trees are large enough to allow cattle to run among them some cotton is still gatherel. After six years cattle are admitted, for by this time the trees have grown so that cattle cannot injure them. The seventh year the trees begin to bear, and at fifteen years after planting they attain their prime.

The grass grows luxuriantly in Samoa, for drouth is unknown there, and cattle find among the cocoanut trees rich feeding ground. On the two largest plantations there are 1,600 head of cattle. There are also some fine horses. Next to cocoanuts and cotton coffee is the most important product. It is of excellent quality, rivaling the finest Mocha.

These plantations are worked by imported labor, for the Samoans will not work. This labor is recruited chiefly from the islands to the west of Samoa, the New Hebrides, Solomon, New Britain and New Ireland islands; also from Ellice and Gilbert islands, to the

As a rule, the labor trale is humanely conducted by the German labor vessels, yet it is not wholly robbed of its horrors. The laborers are under contract for three years' service, at the expiration of which time they are to be returned to their homes. This, however, is sometimes not done, and the unfortunate people are landed among a hostile tribe, who speedily kill or enslave

Men, women and children are recruited at wages of \$3 a month, paid in trade. They are well housed and are fed on rice, biscuits and yams. Their hours for work are regular, and Sunday is a holiday. There are about 750 of them on different plantations.

PROBABLE FATAL FALL.

Three Men Test an Elevator to Their Sorrow at Providence, R. I.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 9.-At 2:15 p. m. Tuesday three men were badly hurt in testing a passenger elevator built by L. S. Graves & Son, of Rochester. The elevator was cut loose and allowed to fall five stories, sixty-five feet to an air-tight vault which, it was supposed, would break the fall so gradually as to insure the safety of the passengers.

Superintendent of Construction A. C. Connell, Mr. Jones, the manager, and Jacob Rosenfeld, a reporter, were in the elevator which, when released, fell with fearful velocity. When it reached the bottom the clone was that of Mrs. Lindsay, who lived three men were lying on the floor of the car with her two step children, Maud and Wili- insensible with their heads cut open. All

Mr. Jones died from his injuries during the evening. He was the New England agent of the elavator firm of L. S. Graves & Company, of Rochester, and leaves a wife in Boston. A. C. Cornell, superintendent of construction, will prot-He is also ably recover. Boston. Rosenfeld, the reporter who was one of the three men who went down with the elevator is badly cut, but his injuries are not serious.

SULLIVAN TO THE RESCUE.

He Assists Railroad Detectives in Arresting an Offender on a Train.

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., May 9 .- A fight occurred Monday night on a train near Dobb Ferry, tetween railroad detectives and train men one the one side and a gang of toughs on the other.

A crowd who had attended the Sullivan-Ashton sparring match at Tarrytown were on the train, and a local prize fighter named Doris refused to pay his fare. Several detectives had been detailed to accompany the train in anticipation of trouble, and they attempted to arrest Doris, whose friends came to his rescue. In the fight which followed several of the crowd were knocked down. among them Jack Hopper, the light-weight pugilist. In the midst of the row John L. Sullivan came to the assistance of the officers, and Doris was overpowered. He was taken to Pokeepsie, where he was Tuesday sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the penitentiary. He had been out of the penitentiary only a week.

A Tennessee County's Baby Crop. KNOXVII.LE, Tenn., May 9.—Union county, this state, is to the front in the baby producing business. During the past week six women have given birth to fifteen children, a colored woman named Walker having four; Mrs. Joe Kitts gave birth to three; Mesdames James Vandegriff, Bud Oxendine. Charles Newton and Mrs. Ellen Tanner claim twins each. All the children are alive and doing well, and all reports are not yet

Niagara's New Bridge Opened.

NIAGARA FALLS, May 9 .- The new suspension bridge, to replace the one carried away by a cyclone last winter was opened for travel this morning. The bridge, which was commenced March 21, 1.260 feet long, 17 feet wide, and 197 feet above water. It was built by the Rochester bridge and iron

The Heaviest Rain for Years.

PIERRE, Dak., May 9.-Twelve hours of steady rain, the heaviest for years, visited central Dakota Tuesday. In the present condition of crops it insures a good yield of grain all over the country visited by it.

Crazed by His Mother's Death. NEW YORK, May 9 .- James Wright, aged 26, son of a wealthy jeweler, jumped from the roof of a boarding house Tuesday night and was killed. He had been partly demented since his mother's recent death.